promised to take the necessary steps in the matter, threw the entire responsibility on the Municipality. The Municipality, in its turn, completely disappointed the people of Kottayam by its prolonged indifference.

Government should co-operate with the Municipality and work out a scheme of market extension in Kottayam. That was, indeed, a more urgent need than the construction of a clock tower, which was sanctioned by Government.

The Tirunakkara market was established in 1053. Since then, the dimensions of the market had remained unchanged. In the meanwhile, the town grew considerably in area and population. Want of accommodation in the market was a matter of serious concern to the traders. The trading interests felt that the market should be extended east-wards. The area of the market should be doubled by acquiring one acre of land. After acquisition, the land should be sold to the merchants piecemeal, with a view to recovering the cost of acquisition. A cent of land would fetch not less than Rs. 300.

The extension of the market would eventually cause an increase in the revenue derived by Government from income-tax.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Abraham, as you yourself said, this matter was under correspondence between the Municipal Council and the Government till very recently. Several proposals were being made, considered and perhaps given up. The Municipality has not yet sent up any final proposal to Government in the matter. What I would now do is to send your representation to the Council and ask it to send up a final proposal. When I get it, I hope to take the necessary action.

MEMBER: കൌൺസിലിൽ ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഒരു പ്രമേയം പാസ്സാക്കിട്ടുണ്ട്.

DEWAN: Government have not received it. That is why I said I would send your representation to the Council and ask them to consider these things. I shall scrutinise their proposal in the light of your representation.

118. The necessity for a public hall and Municipal Office for Kottayam.

MR. V. CHACKO ABRAHAM (*Municipal Council, Kottayam*) said that there was no hall in the Kottayam town, except the halls which were attached to educational institutions, which could be used for the purpose of holding public meetings, receptions, etc. A meeting of the citizens of the town was held in Meenom 1102, when it was resolved that a public hall should be constructed and named "the Maha-Rani Regent Hall". A board of seven members was constituted for the purpose of collecting funds and for taking such other steps as were necessary for carrying out the resolution. Funds were raised by public

subscription; but, for the acquisition of the necessary site, correspondence was still going on between the Municipal Council and Government.

It was not possible to obtain, by purchase or acquisition, a suitable site in the centre of the town for anything less than Rs. 30,000. Hence the need for handing over to the Municipality a bit of *poramboke* land in the possession of Government.

The Kottayam Municipal Council had no building of its own. The rented building in which the municipal office was held did not afford the necessary facilities for carrying on the various activities of the Municipality.

An extent of 8½ cents of land in survey number 22/1 of the Kottayam *pakuthi*, near the Kottayam Y. M. C. A. building, was handed over to the Municipality by Government for locating the municipal office. Proceedings for the acquisition of 31 cents of land to the south of the aforesaid land were in progress when the Council considered that the site of the Higher Grade Vernacular School, near the Post office, might be obtained for the purpose. No better site for constructing the public hall and the municipal office could be thought of. The school might be located elsewhere in the town.

Another convenient site was the veterinary hospital compound. The hospital might be shifted to *Vedipura purayidom*, near the District Court buildings, which was in the possession of the Municipal Council. The Council was willing to pay Government the value of the hospital buildings, and had accordingly sent a resolution to them. Should the Government, however, find it difficult to exchange the site of the veterinary hospital for *Vedipura purayidom*, an adequate extent of land might be acquired near the Y. M. C. A. building for constructing the municipal office and the public hall, a moiety of the cost being met by Government.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Chacko Abraham, this is a question that has been agitating the Council for a very long time. Certain alternative sites have been suggested which the municipality may be allowed to utilise. The Council itself has not addressed the Government in the matter. I understand that a sub-committee has been appointed to select a site. The Council has not submitted any report to Government. When the Council sends up its recommendations to Government, they will be considered.

119. Needs of the Kottayam taluk.

MR. CHACKO VARKEY (*Kottayam taluk, Group II*) criticised the policy of Government in spending, for the improvement of civic amenities, the revenues collected from the inhabitants of villages. The needs of rural areas in the Kottayam taluk had received so far nothing but perfunctory consideration from the officers of the Public Works, Medical and Sanitary departments. Government should cause proper attention to be paid on those areas.